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ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH—No. 50B.

OFFICIAL ORDER

Concerning the Vaccination of School-Children.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

SPRINGFIELD, FEBRUARY 1, 1882.

At a special meeting of the State Board of Health, held in the City of Chicago, November 22, 1881, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, That, by the authority vested in this Board, it is hereby Ordered, that on and after January 1, 1882, no pupil shall be admitted to any public school in this State without presenting satisfactory evidence of proper and successful vaccination.

OFFICIAL:

JOHN H. RAUCH, M. D., *Secretary.*

Unavoidable delays having occurred in the promulgation of the above Order, the period first fixed (January 1, 1882), was provisionally extended by the Secretary to January 25, 1882.

At the annual meeting of the BOARD, held in Springfield, January 19, this extension was ratified by the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the action of the Secretary in extending the period for the enforcement of the Vaccination Order of the BOARD, from January 1 to January 25, is approved, and he is hereby authorized to still further extend the period in such cases as, in his judgment, may be deemed necessary.

The necessity for a further extension being apparent, it is, therefore, hereby,
Ordered, That in counties where small-pox now exists the time is extended to February 15, prox.

In counties as yet free from small-pox the time is extended to March 1, prox.

In counties now free from the disease, but in which small-pox may hereafter make its appearance, the Order shall be enforced within fifteen (15) days from the date of the first case,

Returns of Certificates Form 52, S. B. H., may be made at any time prior to March 3, prox.

[Official Order No. 55.]

INSTRUCTIONS

AS TO

"Satisfactory Evidence of Proper and Successful Vaccination."

The object of this measure is to make sure that children in attendance at the public schools are properly protected against small-pox, to the end that their health and lives may be preserved and interruption of schools by the disease may be avoided.

Evidence of this protection will be most readily and usefully afforded by means of the *Certificate* (Form 51), prepared and furnished by the STATE BOARD. Such certificate, filled out in accordance with the following instructions, will be received as the "satisfactory evidence" required by the Order:

1. Every public scholar under the approximate ages of twelve years if a girl, or fourteen years if a boy—see next paragraph—must present to her or his teacher, on or before the dates specified in Order No. 55*, a certificate signed by a legally-qualified physician, stating (1) *Name*; (2) *Age*; (3) *Residence*; (4) *Date of Vaccination*—as near as may be; (6) *Date of Examination*, accurately; and (7) *Result*, as shown on the child's person.

The *date of examination* and the *result*, as shown on the person of the child, are matters which the physician must testify to of "his own knowledge". All else may be qualified in accordance with the facts—as to information or belief.

2. Children over the approximate ages above given—that is, who have passed through the developmental changes occurring about those ages, and which changes are known to frequently impair the protective power of vaccination performed prior thereto—must present certificates showing that they have been vaccinated, or revaccinated, as the case may be, subsequent to those ages. In case, however, a given child has passed the years mentioned and such changes have not yet taken place, *re-vaccination* is not indispensable, provided the evidence of a successful primary vaccination is conclusive. The physician is the sole judge in each case, and his certificate must convey the necessary information to the teacher.

3. A certificate from a legally-qualified physician that a given child is protected by a previous case of small-pox or varioloid; or that it would be dangerous at the present time to vaccinate a given child; or that such insusceptibility has been demonstrated as, in itself, amounts to protection—shall be accepted by school authorities in lieu of the "satisfactory evidence" required by this Order.

4. All vaccinations should be performed by competent medical men; or, if by a non-professional person of sufficient skill and experience, the *result must be examined and certified to by a legally-qualified physician*. Such authority only is competent to pronounce upon the sufficiency of vaccinal protection, or upon the

*See page 1.

danger or inadvisability of performing the operation at a given time, or in certain conditions of the system.

5. In case of failure in a *primary* vaccination, the attempt should be repeated often enough (at intervals of a fortnight) to demonstrate the insusceptibility of the child. Five repetitions are not too many, and it not unfrequently happens that the seventh, eighth or ninth attempt is successful. Where less than five repetitions are advised by the physician, he must assume the responsibility of asserting the proper protection of the child. His endorsement of the certificate to that effect shall be received by the school authorities as entitling the child to school attendance.

6. If more than one in five primary vaccinations are failures, the physician should suspect the quality of his virus, and obtain a supply from a new source. With most physicians it undoubtedly is unnecessary to urge the importance of examination at a proper interval after the operation. Such examination should be always made, because, among other reasons, without it the vacci-

nator deprives himself of the only proof of the value of the virus employed, and his vaccinees may thence be reposing in a false security, which may prove disastrous.

7. To facilitate the tabulation of Returns, and their subsequent examination in the Secretary's office, the use of the following terms, to describe the result, is desired: *Typical*, if the resulting scar is well-marked, characteristic, of normal size, and perfect in outline, depression and pitting; or *Modified*, if, while well-marked and characteristic, the scar is less than normal size and of irregular contour; or *Bad*, if the scar be less than one-fourth of an inch in diameter, or simply a smooth, flat, shiny mark.

The physician should always insist upon revaccination where the scar is "Bad" as thus defined.

8. Legally-qualified physicians may obtain the *Scholar's Certificate* blanks from teachers, school directors or other officers of public instruction; from county clerks; or, by mail, direct from the Secretary's office, at Springfield.

To School Authorities.

I.—The execution of this order is necessarily devolved upon the various officers of public instruction—county superintendents, school directors, trustees and teachers—each and all of whom are hereby authorized and directed to aid in its enforcement in their respective capacities. In all cases, however, the assistance and co-operation of the local health authorities should be invited.

Much of the success of this effort to protect the children from a loathsome pestilence, will depend upon the wisdom, firmness and intelligent action of the school authorities. Timely notification and instruction will save much unnecessary friction; and exact information will soon dispel ignorant and bigoted opposition. It only needs that the public be rightly informed to secure ready co-operation. All inquiries will be promptly answered from this Office, and every available facility afforded for meeting emergencies. It is not desired, except as a last resort, to arbitrarily enforce this measure; at the same time it should be clearly understood that it will be enforced.

II. County Superintendents are respectfully requested to secure a prompt distribution of the copies of the Orders, Certificates, Returns, etc., forwarded to them; to explain to directors and teachers the scope of the Order, and to advise as to the methods of its enforcement. It is especially desired that they communicate fully and promptly to the Secretary's office, any difficulties encountered, and suggestions which their individual knowledge of local conditions and circumstances may warrant.

III. School Directors are the immediate source of authority for the action of teachers under this Order. In addition to the resolution concerning the duty of School Boards already quoted, the Attorney-General says that the law which directs all officers and employees of the State to enforce the rules and regulations of the STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, unquestionably includes school directors. He adds, "In enforcing the orders of the BOARD OF HEALTH, of course the law will protect them [the school directors] in using any necessary means to carry out the orders, even to the extent,

should it become necessary, of excluding from the schools those who refuse to comply." Instructions to this effect should, therefore, be given to teachers by their Directors.

Provision should be made by School Boards for the gratuitous vaccination of the children of those unable to pay for the same. Local boards of health have the right to do this at the expense of town, county or city funds. Where there are no regularly organized boards of health the county commissioners act in that capacity, or the supervisors, assessors and town clerks of townships. These officers have all the power, authority and responsibility of a board of health, and will generally be found quite willing to assist in this method of protecting the public health.

IV. Teachers—who should, in all cases, be vaccinated or revaccinated at the present time—should familiarize themselves with the form of the *Scholar's Certificate*; see that it is properly filled out when presented; make a record of its data for their own use; fill up the blank return (Form 52, S. B. H.) and forward said return, in its accompanying envelope, to the Secretary's office, in Springfield, as herein directed.

In the examination of the *Certificate*—

1.—Special attention must be paid to the entries in "4. Date of Vaccination;" "6. Date of Examination;" and "8. Previously Vaccinated."

Any *certificate* relating to a *recent* vaccination—that is, one performed within the past twelve months—must show the date of such vaccination and the date of examination; and an interval of not less than *ten days* must be shown between the two dates.

Any *certificate* relating to a *previous* vaccination only—that is, one performed prior to January 1, 1881—must state the year of such vaccination, and the date of examination; which examination must have been made since December 1, 1881.

Any such *certificate* not conforming to one or the other of these requirements is imperfect, and must be returned to the certifying physician for completion. This

is essential in order to be assured that the child has been *recently examined*, and that the record concerning its vaccination is matter of knowledge and not of presumption or opinion.

2.—A *certificate* of recent vaccination issued by a legally-qualified physician, and in which the result has been a failure shall be received as a substantial compliance with the Order, *entitling the child to admission pending the result of the repeated operation*. Similarly a *certificate* of a legally-qualified physician setting forth that the bearer is protected by reason of a previous attack of small-pox or varioloid; or that it would be dangerous to vaccinate the bearer at the present time, shall be valid as entitling such child to admission to school.

3.—*Certificates* of successful vaccination, or re-vaccination; or of protection by previous attack of small-pox or varioloid; or that it is dangerous to vaccinate; will, after the data have been entered on Form 52, be returned to the children, and shall be valid, as entitling to admission, until otherwise ordered.

Certificates in which the result is entered "failure," will be taken up on presentation and forwarded with the Returns.

4. Returns for the current school-year (ending June 30, 1882,) will be made prior to March 3, prox., for the months of January and February, and must account for every child whose name appears on the School Schedule for these months.* A supplemental return will be made at the close of the last term of the school year, to include all scholars admitted on and after February 1, 1882; as well as to complete the record of data omitted from the first returns. Thereafter, returns will be made at the end of the first month of the first term of each school year, and supplemental returns at the close of each term. All returns should be made through the County Superintendent, unless that officer directs to the contrary.

*This shall not apply to schools where the Order has been complied with and Returns already forwarded for the month of January.